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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 002090

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR B. NEULING
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR C. COURVILLE

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#) [ZANU](#) [PF](#)

SUBJECT: RULING PARTY SETS DATE FOR PRIMARIES AMIDST MORE
INTRAPARTY FERMENT

REF: (A) HARARE 2063 (B) HARARE 2001 (C) HARARE 73

Classified By: Classified by Charge d'Affaires Eric Schultz under Section 1.5 b/d

¶11. (U) SUMMARY: ZANU-PF announced that it will conduct its primaries for the March national parliamentary elections on January 15. Intra-party violence has already begun to rise. Fights between supporters of two sitting ZANU-PF MPs and the supporters of their party rivals in two hotly-contested seats resulted in the arrest of a number of partisans, including the two MPs. All of those arrested were quickly released. Separately, four prominent party figures have been incarcerated on unspecified charges associated with suspected espionage, according to press reports. END SUMMARY.

ZANU-PF Primaries Announced

¶12. (U) ZANU-PF National Commissar Elliott Manyika announced December 28 that the party's parliamentary primaries would be conducted on January 15. According to local press reports, Manyika said that candidates would be limited to members of provincial executives, the National Consultative Assembly, or the Central Committee. In addition, sitting members of Parliament could run provided there were no disciplinary cases pending against them.

¶13. (U) Manyika was also reported to have said that at least one third of the constituencies would be occupied by women without, however, explaining the means by which such a quota would be met. He also reiterated the admonition of President Mugabe and other senior party officials that political violence, including intra-party violence, would not be tolerated. Manyika made no mention of a requirement that candidates must have been members of the party for at least five years -- a measure rumored to be under consideration in order to exclude certain "Young Turks," such as discredited Information Minister Jonathan Moyo.

Intra-party Violence

¶14. (U) Despite Mugabe's admonition, political violence ticked up this past week, principally within ZANU-PF. On December 26, a scuffle broke out between supporters of two rival ZANU-PF candidates for the Makonde seat (Mashonaland West): the incumbent Kindness Paradza (publisher of the shuttered Tribune newspaper) and the President's nephew, Leo Mugabe. The scuffle resulted in the arrest of Paradza and two of his supporters as well as four of Leo Mugabe's supporters on December 27. All were released on bail the following day. Paradza became the second sitting ZANU-PF legislator arrested this month. Earlier in December, Hurungwe West MP Mark Madiro was arrested following skirmishes between his supporters and the supporters of Cecilia Gwachiwa, a ZANU-PF rival for his seat.

Other Arrests

¶15. (S/NF) The GOZ-controlled Herald newspaper reported on December 30 that four prominent figures had been indicted on December 29 on unspecified charges relating to their involvement in espionage: Chinhoyi MP and ZANU-PF Provincial Chairman for Mashonaland West Philip Chiyangwa (who is also indirectly related to President Mugabe), ZANU-PF Deputy Director for External Affairs Itai Mach, Ambassador to Mozambique and former Consul-General in South Africa Godfrey Dzvairo, and Metropolitan Bank Secretary Tendai Matambanadzo. Local newspapers reported that Chiyangwa suffered a stroke during questioning and was taken to St. Giles hospital for rehabilitation. However, one Embassy contact reported seeing a badly beaten Chiyangwa at St. Giles, and reported that he was in fear for his life. Earlier press reports indicated that ZANU-PF Deputy Security Chief Kenny Karidza had been seized with the others for questioning in mid-December but he was not named among the indicted. Earlier press reports also fingered the British and Israelis as the "hostile foreign

powers" that had suborned those detained, although the latest Herald reporting curiously omitted mention of any foreign government. Sensitive reporting indicates that South Africa was the only government involved.

Comment

16. (C) The recent arrests and general bloodletting within the ZANU-PF in the run-up to and aftermath of the Party Congress (ref A) testify further to the brittleness of party unity and will fuel simmering intra-party resentments and paranoia. The GOZ will likely portray the arrest of these and other alleged perpetrators of violence to SADC as evidence of its intent to conduct a peaceful election in accord with SADC election principles. However, we fully expect political violence to increase (including against the MDC should it re-enter the race) in the run-up to elections. And consistent with historical patterns here, those who retaliate or defend themselves (be they ZANU-PF or MDC) will often get punished more than those who initiated the violence.

17. (S/NF) The implications of the espionage case are potentially far-reaching. It will certainly add to the paralyzing witch-hunt atmosphere within the party, particularly since the GOZ has not divulged details about the case that would put to rest the many rumors circulating. With respect to foreign policy, the GOZ can be expected to keep quiet about South Africa's role in order to exert additional leverage on Pretoria, including in scripting SADC engagement on Zimbabwe's elections.

SCHULTZ